MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

24 APRIL 1981

Lebanon

Relations With UNIFIL--Jerusalem radio reported that, after meeting with Maj Sa'd Haddad, commander of the Christian militia forces in southern Lebanon, Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin said they had agreed that the militia should avoid clashes with the UNIFIL force in southern Lebanon and should make a "supreme effort" not to harm the civilian population there. For its part, Israel is now allowing UNIFIL to receive supplies through Israel's Ben-Gurion Airport, Jerusalem television reported. It noted that this is a change in Israeli policy toward UNIFIL.

Palestinian Accusation--The clandestine Voice of Palestine Radio reported that an American ship has unloaded a consignment of arms in Beirut for the Phalangist militia, including 40 tracked vehicles and 17 tanks. The radio said the Phalangists are making intensive military preparations for a new conflict after asking President Ilyas Sarkis to order a cease-fire. The radio also denounced the "obvious coordination" between factions of the Lebanese Army and the Phalangists, asserting that army Commander Victor Khuri has transferred six 115-mm guns to the Phalangists. In a statement reported by the radio, the Lebanese National Movement also warned against cooperation between the army and the Phalangists, claiming that army artillery participated in the recent shelling of Beirut airport.

Military Situation--The IDF spokesman denied an AFP report that 150 Israeli tanks crossed the border and deployed in southern Lebanon this morning, Jerusalem radio reported. According to the Voice of Lebanon, Palestinians and Christian militia forces exchanged fire in the south. Jerusalem radio said the exchanges continued intermittently throughout the night, with many shells hitting Marj 'Uyun. Beirut radio reported that Beirut remained clam throughout the day except for intermittent sniper fire. According to the Voice of Lebanon radio, however, clashes broke out in the suburbs between Amal Movement gunmen and supporters of the Iraqi Ba'th Party. Beirut radio also said that Zahlah was calm, but the Voice of Lebanon claimed that Syrian troops shelled Zhalah's residential and industrial areas and were tightening their blockade of the town. Beirut radio revealed that Public Works Minister Ilyas al-Hirawi and the governor of Al-Biqa' met in Shtawrah with Syrian Col Muhammad Ghanim to discuss the situation in Zahlah.

Saudi Arabia

Petroleum Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani has warned the United States that an "explosion" will occur in the Middle East unless the United States helps achieve peace there, SPA reported. Speaking in New York, Yamani criticized "blind American support" of Israel, asserting that Israel poses more of a threat to the world than does communism. He urged the United States not to sacrifice its friendship with Saudi Arabia because of its "bias" toward Israel, and he said that possibilities for U.S.-Saudi cooperation would be unlimited if the United States helped achieve a just peace in the Middle East.

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah left Kuwait on an official visit to the Soviet Union, Kuwait radio reported. Before leaving he said that he will hold talks with Soviet officials on bilateral relations, the situation in the Gulf, the Arab-Israeli conflict and Afghanistan. Noting that he will be extremely frank with Soviet officials, he said he will explain to them the aims of the newly formed Gulf Cooperation Council. He indicated that Kuwait may acquire more Soviet weapons as a result of this visit to the Soviet Union.

Oman

Muscat radio reported that Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, meeting in Salalah, discussed the regional situation, bilateral relations and technical assistance for Oman's economic development.

Libya

TASS announced that Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi will make an official visit to the Soviet Union on 27 and 28 April.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Bani-Sadr Press Conference--Addressing a press conference in Tehran, Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr admitted that Iran has suffered "huge" losses in the war with Iran, Tehran radio reported. He added that losses to industry and in manpower are "incalculable" but claimed that the situation at the front is good. He said that the Iraqi regime made four basic mistakes in attacking Iran: 1) it mistakenly thought that the Arabs in Khuzestan would take the Iraqi side and rise up against the Iranian Government; 2) it assumed that the Iranian Army would turn its guns against the Iranian Government in aid of Iraq; 3) it thought that the Iranian leadership was unstable, would become more unstable because of the war and would collapse; 4) it did not realize that the Iranian nation would use its initiative to overcome its historical disadvantages and underdevelopment.

Military Situation--Tehran radio reported that mopping-up operations continued following the capture by Iranian forces of strategic heights in the west. It put the number of enemy dead at more than 350. The radio also reported that four fuel depots at Iraq's Al-Faw refinery were set on fire by Iranian shelling. An Iraqi General Command communique, carried by INA, reported small-scale clashes along the western fronts and said Iraqi aircraft raided Iranain positions in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area, returning safely to base.

Iran

An Interior Ministry announcement, broadcast by Tehran radio, declared that a "handful of people who penetrated the ranks" of Armenians demonstrating near the Turkish Embassy entered the embassy and caused "some minor damage." Encountering "decisive action by security officials," they were dispersed, the announcement stated. In condemning such acts, the Interior Ministry stated that it "expects the Armenian compatriots, who enjoy protection under Islamic law, to reject this handful of hooligans."

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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ABU JIHAD HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE IN ALGERIA

LD240050 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0000 GMT 2. Apr 81

[Text] On the occasion of his visit to Algeria Mr Abu Jihad, member of the Central Committee of the Palestine liberation movement Fatah and deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, held a press conference in which he explained that his talks with party and state officials in Algeria were extremely important and that he sensed from these talks Algeria's eager desire to support the Palestinian issue and its constant alignment on the side of the Palestinian people in their just struggle.

Abu Jihad also talked about Zionist-isolationist military escalation against southern Lebanon. He stressed that the enemy is trying through this escalation to influence the Palestinian will, to make Begin's election campaign a success and to please Washington after American statements calling for launching a campaign against what they call terrorism.

Concerning the attitude of the West European countries toward the Middle East issue, Abu Jihad explained that there is no clear European initiative, affirming that Europe does not have the courage to state a clear view on the Palestinian issue in view of the difference of views within the EEC, not to mention the constant U.S. pressure aimed at rendering European steps a mere complement to the Camp David agreements.

LEBANESE NATIONAL MOVEMENT VIEWS ARMY ROLE

NC231245 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1130 GMT 23 Apr 81

[Text] The Lebanese National Movement has warned against the serious role that some army units played in fighting alongside the Phalangists. In a statement released yesterday the National Movement confirmed that army artillery took part in shelling the airport and most areas in western Beirut. This was in addition to the feverish combat role by the army along the contact lines in the capital in full coordination with the Phalangists and at orders from their operations room.

The National Movement condemned the scorched-earth policy that Israel is using against southern Lebanon. It said that this policy aims at two related political objectives: 1) to influence the balance of the internal Lebanese power now that the militia of Bashir al-Jumayyil sustained a military defeat in Zahlah and 2) to inflame the political-military front to the extent of permitting the revival of the internationalization slogan.

The Lebanese National Movement said that the isolationist military escalation in Beirut by the Phalangists serves the political objectives of the Israeli plan, coupled with premediated intention for a full military flareup in the capital.

In its statement the National Movement called for the liquidation of the Phalangist partition statelet, for a clear severance of relations between the Phalangist Party and Israel, for abandoning the fascist and sectarian domination plan and for acknowledging the Arabism of Lebanon.

SAUDI ARABIA

OIL MINISTER VIEWS RELATIONS WITH UNITED STATES

LD240954 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0820 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Text] Washington, 24 Apr (SPA)--The minister of petroleum and mineral affairs, Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, has warned the U.S. administration that unless it makes a move toward bringing about peace in the Middle East, there will be an explosion with grave consequences for the world.

In his speech to the Foreign Policy Association in New York yesterday he said that the Saudi people had respect and admiration for the friendly American people. However, the Saudi people believe that it could have been possible for relations between the kingdom and the United States to be an example to be followed had it not been for the U.S. stance toward the Arab-Israeli conflict and the issue of the Palestinian people, which is the most acute aspect of this conflict.

Shaykh Yamani defined the sources of threat to the world as international communism and Israel. He added that Israel is regarded as a definite threat and much worse than the communist threat; however, Israel is the point from which the Russians infiltrate the Arab world.

When the United States, under domestic political pressure, does not carry out its duty in establishing peace in the Middle East, it is serving Russian interests at the expense of its own interests. Shaykh Yamani referred to the blind American support for Israel in Jerusalem and also in the occupation of the Arab territories and said that this support gives Muslims the impression that America is hostile to them. He stressed that Jerusalem and Palestine are not just an Arab issue but are primarily an Islamic issue. He expressed the belief that peace cannot be realized without an effective U.S. contribution to the efforts leading to this peace. Sooner or later the U.S. role will become a more positive one as a result of the gradual change in U.S. public opinion.

Shaykh Yamani also stressed the importance of the position of the kingdom as it has the qiblah of the Muslims and because of the prominent political, economic and oil role it plays as far as the United States and the world are concerned. He called on the United States not to sacrifice the kingdom's friendship and its important and constructive role in the world because of its bias toward Israel. He added that if a just peace is established in the Middle East, the possibilities of mutual cooperation between the kingdom and the United States will have no limits.

OMAN

AZ ZAWAWI REITERATES SELF-DEFENSE POLICY FOR GULF

GF231417 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 23 Apr 81

[Text] Qays 'Abd al-Muni'im az-Zawawi, minister of state for foreign affairs, held a press conference today during which he answered Arab and foreign correspondents' questions on the most important current issues, Oman's policy on these issues and the threat Soviet presence in the PDRY poses to Arabian Peninsula countries. His excellency said: We are training and arming our armed forces so our arms and equipment will equal the arms and military equipment the Soviet Union is supplying to the PDRY. The Sultanate of Oman does not need any particular type of arms, but it periodically reviews its defense requirements and discusses them with its friends in the Western world.

Qays 'Abd al-Mun'im az-Zawawi asserted that the PDRY threatens not only Oman but the entire Arabian Peninsula. He said: The Soviet Union is using the PDRY and its communist forces to threaten the YAR, the Sultanate of Oman and subsequently the entire region. This confirms the gravity of these threats.

Referring to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's visit to Oman and the topics that will be discussed, the minister said: We will discuss bilateral relations that are based on cooperation, as well as issues related to the region and our views on the region's defense and security. We will also discuss political matters of mutual interest.

Referring to the military equipment Oman may buy from Britain, Qays az-Zawawi said: We do not need any particular type of British weapons. We have been buying the arms we need from Great Britain for many years and will continue to do so. We recently discussed the purchase of Chieftain tanks.

Referring to the firm relations between the two countries, the minister declared: I am confident that these relations will continue during the implementation of the second 5-year plan. There will undoubtedly be cooperation and trade with the Western firms operating in Oman, other firms with which we cooperate and Eastern firms. We are optimistic about the role Western trade can play in the sultanate's economic development. He added: The second 5-year plan aims at developing and improving all resources as well as mining, fisheries, industry and agriculture. These are the principal spheres on which Oman's second 5-year plan will concentrate.

Answering a question on Oman's strategic position and its foreign policy, Qays az-Zawawi said: We are aware of our responsibility toward maintaining the stability, safety and freedom of shipping in this vital part of the Middle East. We should not classify any state in the region as pro-Western or pro-Eastern. Our policy is based on maintaining friendly relations with all countries that agree to deal with us on the basis of equality and mutual respect. Therefore, we have good relations with the West and with socialist countries such as the PRC, Yugoslavia and Romania. Like other states in the area, we uphold a policy of cooperating and existing with those states that want to deal with us on these bases.

Referring to regional security, he said: Regional security is the responsibility of the countries of the area. We will discuss this matter with the British prime minister on this basis. Nevertheless, there is a general feeling that friendly countries should assist countries that request military assistance and should provide them with the necessary defensive hardware.

Referring to the United States' plan to form a Rapid Deployment Force, Az-Zawawi said: We believe the West has a vital role in this matter. The force should not be confined to U.S. troops. He stressed that there is no need for this force to be stationed in the area. However, it could be called upon to assist a state that is being threatened and needs assistance.

He asserted: In our discussions and talks with (?everyone), we have made it clear that we have no intention of granting bases in the Sultanate of Oman. He said the only country that has allowed this is the PDRY. It has granted bases to the Soviet Union. He said they have discussed the possibility of extending some limited facilities to all friendly countries. He explained: When we say limited facilities we mean only providing facilities for refueling or maintenance for any country that may need them. Thus, they would be limited to facilities that might include foodstuffs and ships' supplies.

Answering a question on the possibility of these forces using these facilities, the minister of state for foreign affairs said: as I said before, if Oman or another state in the area felt it was necessary to ask for assistance from forces outside the area in view of the presence of forces in the PDRY and elsewhere--if this should happen, and I hope it will not happen--then we would study and discuss these matters and the nature of the threat. We would then decide whether or not it was necessary for outside and known forces to openly use these facilities.

The minister added: We believe the role of the Gulf Cooperation Council will be to keep the region isolated from the conflict between the superpowers, if this is possible. When we say to keep the region isolated, we mean to keep everyone isolated and not just the western or eastern flank. The Gulf Cooperation Council is, of course, in the formative stage. We will see what it can achieve. We have great hopes and are optimistic about its role.

His excellency pointed out that the Gulf Cooperation Council works in the various economic, health and educational fields, and the Sultanate of Oman believes that this council must resolve the defense and security problem at a certain stage when it is discussed during meetings. He said: This is a difficult matter to discuss.

Denouncing Soviet expansionism, he said: These intentions are overt and known.

In noting the Soviet policy on kindling differences and disputes such as in Africa and Kampuchea, the minister said: The Soviet Union exploits all situations through cooperation and coexistence with poor countries. It arms and trains these countries so they can be used when the situation demands, as in the case of the Cuban troops in Africa and the GDR troops not only in Africa but all over the world.

Referring to the Iraqi-Iranian war, his excellency said: The Sultanate of Oman and other Gulf countries are aware of the grave threat the continuation of the war poses to the region. We are all saddened by the continuation of this war. He stressed the importance of an early cease-fire through negotiations between the two countries.

Minister Qays az-Zawawi concluded his press conference by answering questions on the expansion of Omani-Portuguese relations and said: The Sultanate of Oman took the initiative by dispatching the Omani ambassador in Paris to Lisbon. Following this, the Portuguese asked to visit the sultanate. We were responsive, and the Portuguese delegation paid us a visit during which we discussed various issues. He continued: Relations between the two countries differ from those in the (?1950's) in that relations are now based on equality, mutual respect, noninterference in each other's affairs and respect for each country's laws and regulations. He expressed optimism over the future of these relations.

MINISTER SEES GULF COUNCIL AS 'PRACTICAL'

LD220016 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Apr 81 EA

[Excerpts] His Excellency 'Abd al-'Aziz ar-Kawwas, minister of information and youth affairs, has reiterated that the establishment of the Gulf Cooperation Council is considered a practical translation of the common aspirations of the Gulf people and the culmination of the existing cooperation among the states of the region.

His excellency said in an interview published today by the weekly AL-AHD of Qatar that the Sultanate of Oman is proud of its membership on the council and its work with its sister states to firmly establish its foundations and ideas in a way that is commensurate with the hopes attached to it in order that it should become a real vehicle and a strong edifice through which the Gulf people can ward off dangers and achieve stability in their region.

His Excellency 'Abd al-'Aziz ar-Rawwas reiterated that the Gulf states were capable of protecting their security and stability by virtue of their faith, cohesiveness and their leaders' determination to face the challenges. His excellency pointed out that the philosophy of the Sultanate of Oman in connection with the Gulf security could be summarized in the need to keep the region free of international conflict, or to balance the presence of the big powers, if keeping them out should prove impossible.

Concerning Oman's relations with the UAE, his excellency the minister of information and youth affairs said that the Sultanate of Oman had always worked through every available opportunity to develop these relations for the better on a clear and realistic basis. He stressed that Oman was working with its brothers in the UAE to clear up all outstanding issues on a firm basis of fraternity and common destiny.

Regarding Oman's conditions for the normalization of relations with South Yemen, His Excellency 'Abd al-'Aziz ar-Rawhas said that the sultante had always blessed the initiatives of the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council to clear the air between the two countries because of its concern to keep the region and its peoples free of the burden of international conflict.

His excellency stressed the sultanate's readiness to extend the hand of friendship and harmony to all the states in the region with the proviso that they would uphold the principle of good-neighbor relations and noninterference in the internal affairs of others.

His excellency went on to say: However, the ruling regime in South Yemen does not have the authority to make decisions except on the basis of what is suggested by Soviet policy, be it a policy of rapprochement or the opposite, in relations with the states of the region. Time has regrettably demonstrated that tactical or self-centered rapprochement or strategic aloofness constitutes the cornerstone of the policy of South Yemen toward the states of the Arabian Peninsula, including Oman. Truth will out however much we avoid it. South Yemen is devoted to the Kremlin, as shown by its participation in the celebrations of the CPSU congress by the head of the regime. This participation took place immediately after the Mecca conference. The question now is the propriety of the membership of this regime in the Islamic Conference.

With regard to Oman's relations with Egypt His Excellency 'Abd al-'Aziz ar-Rawwas said that no change had occurred here becaue Oman upheld the principle of not following the policy of cutting off links with the Arab nation. He affirmed that any part of the Arab nation that was cut off would become of necessity a factor in weakening the great Arab body.

On the Iraq-Iran war, his excellency the minister of information and youth affairs said that the continuation of this war threatened the security and stability of the region. He expressed his hope that the Islamic good-will mission would reach a solution for ending the shedding of Muslim blood and restoring everyone's rights.

His Excellency 'Abd al-'Aziz ar-Rawwas described relations between Oman and Qatar as firm, pointing out that the information agreement recently signed by the Sultanate of Oman and the State of Qatar should contribute to cooperation in the information field between the two countries in a manner commensurate with the extensive cooperation between Oman and Qatar in various fields.

Concluding the interview, His Excellency 'Abd al-'Aziz ar-Rawwas, minister of information and youth affairs, pointed out that the policy of His Majesty Sultan Qabus' government is directed at raising the living standards of the Omanis to enable them to face the challenges of development and defend their territory and beliefs against any external aggression.

UK PRIME MINISTER HOLDS TALKS WITH SULTAN QABUS

LD232224 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Apr 81 EA

[Excerpts] Talks were held today between His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id and the British prime minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher. The talks dealt with bilateral relations and ways of strengthening them, especially in the field of technical assistance for economic development in Oman. The talks also covered regional affairs.

His majesty the sultan explained the aims of the Gulf Cooperation Council and Soviet expansion in South Yemen and the Horn of Africa. The talks also covered the Middle East issue. During the talks the Omani side listened to the British viewpoint concerning the European initiative for finding a peaceful solution to the issue. The talks included the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and international issues of common interest. The talks were frank and cordial.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, prime minister of the United Kingdom, this morning received ambassadors of the Arab and foreign states accredited to the sultanate at her residence in the Al-'Alam Palance. The meeting was attended by His Excellency Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdullah, under secretary at the Foreign Ministry, and His Excellency Malallah Habib, the sultanate's ambassador to the United Kingdom.

UAE

UK'S HURD HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE ON THATCHER VISIT

JN221334 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1208 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 Apr 81--Douglas Hurd, British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, has declared his country's welcome for the establishment of the Gulf Cooperation Council. He emphasized that the responsibility of defending the Gulf area belongs solely to its sons.

In a press conference which he held in Abu Dhabi today, Hurd said "British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher conveyed to the leaders of Saudi Arabia and the UAE the British Government's welcome for increasing cooperation with the Gulf states at all levels."

Hurd added that Mrs Thatcher had affirmed that defense of the Gulf area lies in the hands of the states of the area, not in any external efforts or intervention. The British official said that the way in which the sons of the Gulf are preserving Gulf security is exemplary and that this issue has, moreover, surprised many of those who spoke of it in the sixties.

Concerning the Rapid Deployment Forces and Britain's declaration of its desire to participate in them, Hurd said, "Mrs Thatcher made it clear that Britain does not at all consider placing any British or other forces in the Gulf." He affirmed that Mrs Thatcher had made clear to His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, that Britain and the United States will not use the Rapid Deployment Forces, which are only an idea, unless the Gulf states request this and only after consultations in the event of a threat to the area.

Concerning the topics in the British prime minister's talks in Saudi Arabia and the UAE, Hurd said, "They included the Gulf and Middle East situation, oil, defense issues and other bilateral issues." He added, "The British side put forward the issue of responding to the defense needs of the Gulf states, including training."

As regards the Middle East issue, the British secretary of state for foreign affairs denounced Israeli policy in southern Lebanon and its persistance in building settlements in the occupied Arab lands. He described it as posing an obstacle to peace in the Middle East.

In this respect, the British official said that the principle of the Palestinians' right to self-determination and what he called Israel's right to exist within secure borders were at the heart of the Venice statement. He said that over the past 15 months, Europe had been active in solving the Middle East problem in a way which he described as more serious and effective than before.

He said that the stand of the UAE officials during talks with the British side was more than clear and greatly concentrated on the necessity of rapid and active work to arrive at a just solution to the issue. He described the firmness shown by UAE officials in that respect, which he admitted almost reached the level of pressure, to be understandable.

In his press conference Hurd denied that Britain had sold crude oil to Israel. He explained that his country's oil policy is based on selling as much of its oil as possible to the EEC countries, and then to countries which are members of the International Energy Agency.

Press Comment

JN231528 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0740 GMT 23 Apr 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 Apr (ENA)--Commenting on British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's visit to the UAE during the past 2 days, the local papers published today say that this visit clearly showed the UAE's firm stand on the issues in the Arab and international arenas, particularly those issues pertaining to the Gulf security and the Arab-Israeli dispute.

In its editorial the paper AL-ITTIHAD says that during his talks with Mrs Thatcher his highness the UAE president affirmed that the UAE's stand on and assessment of the current Arab and international situation revolve around basic axes, namely: the Gulf's security is the responsibility of its sons and is associated with the security and stability of the entire region and the Arab world and with solving this nation's issues, particularly the Palestinian issue--the Arabs' primary issue; Israeli expansion at the Arab states' expense constitutes the greatest threat to Palestine and Lebanon; and the current events in Lebanon are a natural consequence of Israeli expansion and ambitions.

The paper says that Palestine is the crux of the entire stand, pointing out that it was thus natural for the UAE, during the talks with the British prime minister, to greatly emphasize the need for speedy and effective action in order to reach a just solution to the Palestinian issue. In fact, the UAE's stand to this effect reached the extent of "applying pressure," as Douglas Hurd, British minister of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, stated.

The paper adds that the British minister tried to show that there is response to the pressure when he said that the British prime minister had affirmed that the defense of the Gulf region is the responsibility of its states and that Britain is not thinking of stationing forces in the Gulf. He also affirmed that Britain recognizes the Palestinians' right to determine their fate and calls--"in accordance with the Venice declaration"--for the PLO's participation in any peace talks dealing with the Middle East.

The paper says: It is no secret to anyone that there is nothing new in the British stand. In other words there is nothing new that would support the British official's statements to the effect that Britain wishes to begin a new stage of understanding and friendship with the Gulf states and the UAE in particular. Indeed, we cannot imagine a British stage in the region that can be called new unless such a stage would be in response to a call for speedy and effective action in order to reach a just solution to the Palestinian issue. Britain has so much to offer in this respect, through its role in the European Community or through its special relations with Reagans' administration.

Thus, turning a new page in its dealings with us and our brothers in the Gulf and the entire homeland depends on what Britain does in this respect.

In its editorial the paper AL-KHALIJ, published in Ash-Shariqah, focuses on Douglas Hurd's statement to the effect that Mrs Thatcher's statements during her recent visit to Washington had aroused many people's resentment. Hurd added, however, that Mrs Thatcher's talks in the UAE had removed all ambiguities.

The paper says that Hurd made this statement only a short while after the statement by the UAE minister of state for foreign affairs to the effect that his highness the UAE president affirmed to Mrs Thatcher that Gulf security is associated with the Arab nation's security.

The paper adds: The UAE said exactly what Mrs Thatcher ought to know. This leaves the United States, but no doubt it has heard the same thing, since we say this to all the superpowers and particularly those of them seeking to push the region into international conflicts or alleging that the Gulf is a vacuum. We would like to affirm to Mrs Thatcher that the vacuum was actually present when foreign powers were ruling. However, today it is the free national administration that should fill the land, sea and air vacuum.

Now that Mrs Thatcher has left our country after having clearly heard that the Gulf's security is part of general Arab security and now that Douglas Hurd has expressed good intentions, will Britain interpret its intentions with recognition of the PLO, particularly since the Palestinian issue is the primary issue of the UAE and the Arabs?

The paper AL-FAJR expresses the hope that the British prime minister's statements during the visit were not dictated by her presence among us and our hospitality and that these statements will be openly applied to convincing the United States that, however numerous the threats surrounding the region may be, the primary and gravest threat will always be the Arab-Israeli conflict, since this conflict is the cause of the regional and international conflicts and the Soviet presence in the region. Thus, logic, reason and knowledge all dictate that the origins of problems should be dealt with first.

The paper points out that, as is his custom, the UAE president clearly explained to the British prime minister the UAE's principled stand, which stems from feelings of responsibility and commitment to the important issues preoccupying the sons of the Arab region and directly or indirectly affecting many world states. The president also explained the causes of the real danger threatening the entire Arab region: the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The paper concludes that Mrs Thatcher has definitely heard similar viewpoints in Saudi Arabia before her visit to the UAE and will hear the same viewpoints in all the Gulf states she will visit, since such a stand is a principled one that is based on truths and events rather than mere imagination and expectations.

PDRY

PFLO RADIO BELITTLES THATCHER'S GULF TOUR

LD232044 Aden Voice of PFLO in Arabic 1545 GMT 22 Apr 81 EA

[Text] The prime minister of Britain is continuing her official visit to countries of the Gulf area after concluding her visit to India.

If Margaret Thatcher was unable to achieve the aims for which she visited India, she hopes to achieve two main aims during her current visit to the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula area. The first aim is economic, which is manifested by the conclusion of new agreements with the states of this area. They include [word indistinct] the consignment of English goods, particularly arms, which will lead to the reduction of the economic dilemma through the absorption of monetary inflation, strikes and economic bankruptcy which Britain has been suffering from for several years.

The second aim of Thatcher's visit is to convince area states of the idea for a multinational rapid deployment force, the establishment of which she agreed on with Reagan during her visit to the United States some time ago. This force will take up permanent positions in the Arabian Gulf area, in bases which the Qabus regime has granted to America and Britain under agreements concluded with these two states last year.

Thatcher's visit to the area is not the only one that tried to convince her listeners of her statements. A few weeks ago the British defense minister, John Nott, visited the area. Certainly Thatcher's visit does not differ in its general outline from that of John Nott. The two visitors, even if they differ, are, as they say, two faces of the same coin.

Qabus, who a few weeks ago received John Nott, today receives Thatcher. The visits of the British officials to Muscat almost fall under the category of courtesy visits, because it is British officers and experts who assume the administration of all matters in the sultanate. Qabus, his ministers and the rest of the officials in the regime are nothing but mere facades. The entire Omani economy is also at the dispoal of the British and American companies and other foreign monopolistic companies.

As for the multinational Rapid Deployment Forces, of whose benefits for the stability and security of the Gulf area Thatcher herself tried to persuade the officials of the area, Qabus and his regime are convinced by this viewpoint and welcome it. Indeed, Qabus and his regime were the first to call for the presence of these forces in the area in order to protect it from disturbances and changes whose storms might batter the countries of this area, or some of them, through the abortive plan put forward by the Qabus regime last year: a plan which concerns the protection of the Strait of Hormuz and which called on America, Britain and West Germany to (?effectively) contribute toward this protection.

Hence, these factors make the visit of Margaret Thatcher and John Nott, and other British and American officials, to the Sultanate of Oman come under the heading of courtesy visits since the rulers of Muscat do not disagree in any way with what is planned for them by the imperialist circles. If this question is now understood by all the sons of the area, the question that is currently being repeated in all the arenas of the Gulf is: Why the increasing interest in this area by the ruling circles in America and Britain?

We will give you, honorable listeners, the reply to this question in our coming programs so that we can put you in the picture about the future designs being drawn up by the imperialist circles, who covet the resources of this area more than antything else.

BRIEFS

YAR DEPUTY MINISTER--President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih issued a presidential decree on 23 April 1981 appointing Ghalib 'Ali Jamil as deputy foreign minister. [Excerpt] [San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Apr 81 JN]

YAR AMBASSADORS--President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih issued several decrees on 23 April appointing the following ministers plenipotentiary and ambassadors extraordinary to the countries named: Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Iryani to the United States; 'Abdallah Husayn Barakat to the Syrian Arab Republic; Ahmad Qa'id Barakat to Japan; 'Abdallah ad-Dibbi to the Italian Republic; Muhammad 'Abd al-Qaddud al-Wazir to Pakistan; 'Ali 'Abdallah Abu Luhum to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; Ahmad Dayfallah al-'Uzayz to the United Kingdom; Ahmad Muhammad Haydar to the Indian Republic; and Ahmad Muhammad ar-Rawdi to the Sultanate of Oman. [San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Apr 81 JN]

AL-MAJALLAH INTERVIEWS DEFENSE MINISTER AL-HALIM

LD231411 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 18-24 Apr 81 pp 4, 5

[Interview granted by Egyptian Defense Minister Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah to Sana' as-Sa'id in Cairo--date not specified]

[Excerpt] [Question] In the light of present circumstances, what does Egypt's national security mean in relation to the security of the countries of the area and Somalia?

[Answer] Egypt's national security must be linked to the security of the Middle East, the major part of which is the Arab world and the rest of which belongs to the Islamic world. Therefore, Egypt's security must be linked to the security of the Arab and Islamic world. If Egypt is to achieve its security, the first thing it must do is to look around it. Colonel al-Qadhdhafi in Libya, for example, is today totally dominated by the Soviet Union, which has major ambitions in the Middle East area and which is aware that Egypt is the major focal point and the safety valve there. What is happening in Libya is tantamount to a threat to Egypt. There are in Libya now quantities of arms that exceed its national security needs. This makes people wonder about the secret behind this vast quantity of excessive arms, which are not necessary for Libya, particularly since the countries bordering it have no designs against it. In fact, the opposite is the truth. Any country that has more military resources than it needs for its security will always be tempted to attack others. In the science of strategy there is the equation of comprehensive power, which is a simple mathematical equation consisting of manpower and economic, military and political strength. Any imbalance in these elements causes an imbalance in the equation. This is what has happened in Libya. Libya has large sums of money with which it has bought large quantities of arms, yet it does not have the manpower to absorb these arms. Therefore it resorted to mercenaries and, feeling that it was stronger than its neighbors, went to attack Chad and to threaten the countries neighboring it. Even France--with which Libya cannot be compared--became worried and sent some of its forces to Central Africa to confront the Libyan danger.

If we look at the south we find that, because of Egypt's national, economic, psychological and historical links with Sudan, any danger threatening Sudan is a direct threat to Egypt. For this reason President as-Sadat declared that Egypt would stand with Sudan in the event of a foreign threat right from the first moment. If the Soviet Union were able, through Libya, to dominate Sudan, then the Soviet-African cordon around the Middle East would be complete. Through contact with Aden and with Afghanistan the Soviet Union, if it succeeded in Sudan and Somalia, could turn the Red Sea and the Suez Canal into hostages of its designs and therefore encircle Arab oil. Thus it would be able to dictate terms to the world, either to grab the oil or for other, ideological objectives.

With regard to Ethiopia, I do not think that we view it with hostility. All that we want from it is to leave Sudan alone and not to threaten it and to let Somalia live in peace. As for Somalia, we regard it as an Arab and Islamic country and a member of the Arab League; therefore its safety and security concern Egypt because it is close to the Nile resources, overlooks the Red Sea, and has control of the Bab Al Mandab Strait, which is the southern outlet of the Suez Canal. Therefore, we help it all we can.

[Question] What is the equation for achieving security in the Red Sea?

[Answer] The Red Sea must be an Arab lake, because all its coasts are Arab. The security of this lake can be achieved only if we as Arabs have a naval power capable of this. This requires large sums of money, which the Arabs have, and men capable of conducting military operations, which they also have, particularly in Egypt. This equation would create a power capable of securing the Red Sea.

[Question] There has been much talk about the new U.S. role in the area. Do you believe that the United States can create a deterrent force that can be relied on to contain the Soviet danger?

[Answer] In my view the U.S. deterrence strategy as planned by the U.S. commanders merely depends on the presence of a U.S. force in the right place at the right time, regardless of the size of this force. Therefore, the United States would be facing the Soviet Union with the risk of confrontation between them. This is the philosophy of U.S. deterrence. But the size of the Rapid Deployment Force is not the mainstay of this strategy.

There are, however, differences of views on certain points between us and the United States. The present priority in U.S. policy is to confront the increasing Soviet activity, and not the Palestine problem. In other words, there is a trend toward drawing a line between the Palestine problem and the Soviet threat, whereas I see them as one. I would like to stress that the United States must deal with them as one international problem. U.S. policy is based on the idea that the Arab Gulf region is the axis of its new strategy in the Middle East. Therefore, the Americans consider direct military presence in the area as one of the guarantees of resisting Soviet expansion. This is the reason why we always hear voices in the United States--and I believe that Israel is behind these voices--demanding that the United States use the two bases in Sinai to achieve this objective. My answer to those people is that the idea of bases is rejected politically and socially.

[Question] What can the United States offer Egypt to confront the external dangers in return for the facilities it is granted in Egypt?

[Answer] One of the causes of the problem of instability, which is our problem in the area, is the failure to solve the Palestine problem, and then the Soviet presence in the area. Furthermore, the United States does not have time to build a military capability in the area, while things are different with the Soviet Union because it stores its hardware in what can be called "advance bases" such as Libya and Aden, which gives it an advantage in movement. Therefore, the United States has no alternative but to help the countries of the area to be able to defend themselves against any external threat. Egypt, in the midst of the countries of the area, is the power most capable of undertaking this.

[Question] If armament is to be the alternative to U.S. military presence in the area, can the United States be convinced of this idea, if only to protect both Egypt's borders and the security of the area?

[Answer] We have not and will not substitute U.S. presence for armament, and Egypt has no intention of accepting a U.S. presence. We are pursuing an armament program in accordance with our ability. We hope that the United States will shoulder part of the expense of this armament as aid to Egypt, similar to the aid it has long given to Israel. This is because the increasing danger around Egypt results from the threat to U.S. interests in the Middle East. If the United States had no such interests, Egypt's own resources would be able to provide the necessary arms to ensure security for itself against any danger which might arise.

[Question] In the light of the increase in military aid to the Middle Eastern countries, do you believe that Egypt's share is sufficient, or are you making efforts to increase arms deals?

[Answer] Within this increase Egypt will obtain $900 million, that is an increase of $100 million over last year. Out of the $900 million that Egypt will obtain, $400 million will be at low interest. From our viewpoint what matters is not the figures in dollars but the quantity and the quality of the arms involved.

[Question] What if you turn to the European countries to buy the quantities and qualities of arms that you want?

[Answer] The arms market is open. The problem is building the military strength of a country like Egypt--which is rich in technical and military experience--is that it cannot obtain large quantities of arms without financial aid from friends. Therefore, if we have the financial resources, the arms market is open and we can obtain all that we want. We are pinning great hopes on the new oil discoveries, part of which can be devoted to renewing the building of our armed forces.

[Question] On what basis are you hoping that the United States will supply you with the arms you need?

[Answer] If the United States chooses a state to which it wants to give aid or grants in order to boost its military defenses, this is done on the basis of the clear strategic objective of the given state. Here I would like to say that Egypt's strategic objective agrees with that of the United States. It is the opposite in the case of Israel, whose strategic objective does not agree with that of the United States; in fact it is harming this strategic objective. This is in addition to the fact that Egypt has the ability, the manpower, and the technical abilities to absorb the new technoligies. It also has the potential economic growth and the geographic location to make it the axis of the Middle East. Therefore, it was no innovation or mistake in U.S. policy to try to give Egypt unconditional military aid. Nor was it wrong of Egypt to accept such aid with a free will. Nor is it wrong of Egypt to hope that the day will come when the United States will supply it with all the arms it wants both in quality and quantity.

[Question] What is your current appraisal of Soviet military capability and U.S. military capability, and what are the bases of your fears of Soviet dangers and threats in the area?

[Answer] Any military analyst who looks at the U.S. military capability will find that it is based on confronting a major crisis in Europe and a lesser crisis in another part of the world. Meanwhile the Soviet military capability can face a major crisis in Europe and five other crises in other parts of the world. This is the difference between the two capabilities. In other words, the Soviet Union is capable of intervening in Afghanistan and invading Poland and is still capable of intervening in three other parts of the world. The stockpiling of arms in Libya is in fact a stored Soviet capability, to be used when necessary in Africa or in the Middle East. Therefore, despite the fact that the Americans see the stockpiling of Soviet arms in Libya from an international standpoint but do not see it directly endangering Egypt, we in Egypt see it otherwise. It is quite likely that a major development could take place in North Africa and, therefore, we find that Libya, prompted by the Soviets, is trying to focus attention on the powerful air force it has, on the Libyan military situation in general, and on its close friendship with the Soviet Union. All this is only a preparation for what the Soviet Union has in mind for the area.

[Question] It is being reiterated by some that if Libya becomes allied with the Soviet Union there will be a great change in the military balance in the area, given the Mediterranean, and if the Soviet Union has an actual military presence in Libya--which is easy for it and likely to happen--then this will be a serious change in the balance of power in the Mediterranean and in the whole area. In the meantime it will also be a direct threat to Egypt and to the African countries. Of course, such a threat must be faced. No power can face this threat except Egypt, if backed by funds and arms, because it has the manpower and a great ability to absorb modern technology in the shortest time possible.

[Question] Is it to be understood from this that Egypt is capable of confronting the Soviet Union?

[Answer] It is known in strategy that a state having a powerful military strength represents a protective shield against any power infiltrating the area. This does not mean that Egypt is going to confront or fight the Soviet Union. But there is no doubt that the existence of a strong Egypt will make the Soviet Union think for a long time before using Libya as a base against Egypt, particularly if it is quite aware that Egypt is the key to the Middle East.

[Question] What do you think of the reports that Egypt is one of the most important objectives against which Al-Qadhdhafi is conspiring?

[Answer] Al-Qadhdhafi and Libya are two contradictory words. Al-Qadhdhafi is not Libyan; he is a person who is ruling Libya by force. The Libyan people are a friendly people, but they have not reached the level where they can absorb modern technology in a short period of time. Also, they are not satisfied with Al-Qadhdhafi's policy in the first place. As a result of this imbalance Al-Qadhdhafi has been forced to resort to mercenaries, who work in the interest of others but not of the Libyan people; they implement a plan serving communism. The result is that danger comes not from Al-Qadhdhafi but from the Soviet Union.

[Question] But Al-Qadhdhafi recently declared the end of the state of confrontation with Egypt and stated that there are no longer regular forces on the borders.

[Answer] Al-Qadhdhafi is famous for his contradictory actions and statements. The situation on the Libyan-Egyptian borders is still the same and has not changed. We have all the means to protect our borders against terror.

[Question] If Libya obtains an atomic bomb, will this be a threat to world peace and, more specifically, to Egypt?

[Answer] One atomic bomb does not constitute a danger as some would believe, particularly if it is a primitive nuclear bomb. Therefore, the most that this bomb could do in Al-Qadhdhafi's hands is to be dropped on a single city or a single base; then the alleged atomic strength is over. This neither ends a war nor gives a victory. The best example is that during World War II Japan surrendered not after the Hiroshima bomb but only after the Nagasaki bomb, when Japan thought that the United States had a large number of atomic bombs. Therefore, we are not intimidated if Al-Qadhdhafi buys one single atomic bomb. The people must realize that the weapons of deterrence include things more dangerous than atomic bombs.

[Question] What are Egypt's abilities to play a military role in Sudan, particularly in light of some people's fear that Sudan could turn into another Yemen as far as Egypt is concerned.

[Answer] For Egypt Sudan represents a vital strategic depth, not only militarily but also because it controls the Nile resources, the major source of agricultural wealth in Egypt. Therefore, we must make sure that Sudan is a close friend of Egypt. There is no comparison between Sudan and Yemen; we might as well say that our war with Israel in Sinai was another Yemen, while in fact Sinai is part of Egypt which we liberated with our blood. As for Egypt's ability to face any danger threatening Sudan, I would say that military strength is defined by the amount of danger, and I believe that the amount of danger facing Sudan and Chad can be confronted by Egypt.

[Question] Can Egypt's quest to preserve its military power and national security in the Middle East go as far as participating in a U.S. rapid deployment force that would head for the Gulf to confront Soviet danger?

[Answer] It is very wrong to imagine that Egypt would rush to participate with the United States in any confrontation with potential Soviet expansion in the Gulf countries while there is a real Soviet expansion in Libya, on Egypt's borders. We hope that the United States will take this point into consideration.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 315

JN231648 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 23 Apr 81

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Apr (INA)--In the past 24 hours the Iraqi Armed Forces inflicted losses on the Iranian enemy totaling 166 dead. Communique No 315 issued by the Armed Forces General Command this evening said that other known enemy losses were one helicopter, four tanks, two guns, four vehicles, one infantry position, six observation posts, one stockpile of hardware and one communications station. The communique added that Iraqi planes today raided enemy troop concentrations in Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, scoring direct hits. Our planes returned safely to base. Enemy planes tried to raid the Umm Qasr area. Our antiaircraft intercepted the enemy planes, forcing them to flee. The following is the text of Communique No 315:

In the name of God, the mericiful, the compassionate. With high morale and capability our valiant armed forces dealt blows to the ignorant Magian Persian enemy forces in the operational sectors. The following are the results of our armed forces activities yesterday evening and today:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Our valiant units pounded enemy personnel in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area, killing 14.
B. Enemy troop concentrations were sighted opposite our positions in the Gilan-e Gharb area. Our units dealt severe blows to the enemy concentration, forcing them to retreat after sustaining 26 dead and 1 infantry position, 3 observation posts and 1 helicopter destroyed.
C. Six were killed and one tank was destroyed in the Mimak area opposite our positions in the Sayf Sa'd area.
D. Two were killed and one gun and one observation post were destroyed in the Mehran area.
E. A force of our advance units clashed with an enemy patrol in the Dezful area. The enemy patrol was forced to retreat after sustaining 17 dead.
F. Using various weapons, our units strongly pounded enemy positions and concentrations in the Shush area, killing 33 and destroying 2 tanks, 4 vehicles--one of which was carrying personnel--and 1 gun.
G. One of our advance units clashed with an enemy infantry force in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] area, forcing it to retreat after sustaining 32 dead. Our units also destroyed a stockpile of hardware in the same area.
H. Our units pounded enemy positions and troop concentrations in the Abadan area, inflicting the following losses: 36 dead and 1 tank, 1 vehicle, 3 excavators, 2 observation posts and 1 communications station destroyed.

Thus, the total known enemy losses amount to 166 dead and 1 infantry position, 4 tanks, 2 guns, 4 vehicles, 3 excavators, 6 observation posts, 1 stockpile of hardware, 1 communications station and 1 helicopter destroyed.

II. Our planes today raided enemy troop concentrations in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area, scoring direct hits. Our planes returned safely to base.

III. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 15 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: Five vehicles and two mortars were damaged.

IV. At 1243 today enemy planes tried to raid the Umm Qasr area in Al-Basrah Governorate. Our ground defenses intercepted them, forcing them to flee.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 23 April 1981

AL-WAZZAN SAYS EFFORTS CONTINUING TO END CRISIS

NC231718 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Apr 81

[Text] Prime Minister al-Wazzan, speaking about the security situation today, described it as better than the mad shelling on all axes yesterday. He said that efforts are continuing to consolidate tranquility. He added: We demand that all the forces who have caused this situation allow the Lebanese people to have a breathing space for reassurance and stability. We hope to have the opportunity to continue our contacts, especially with Damascus, for cooperation in ending this explosive situation, which is fraught with the gravest dangers--not to Lebanon alone but also to the entire region.

TUNISIA ENVOY MEETS AL-WAZZAN, ISSUES STATEMENT

NC231542 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Apr 81

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan today received Tunisian Ambassador to Lebanon Mohamed Jenifane. They discussed the situation in Lebanon and what the Arab countries must do to help Lebanon emerge from its ordeal. The Tunisian ambassador offered his country's resources to help Lebanon.

Following the meeting the Tunisian ambassador said: My meeting today did not differ from yesterday's meeting with President Sarkis and the statement I made after it. I conveyed to Prime Minister al-Wazzan the interest of President Bourgiba and the Tunisian Government in the Lebanese developments, which I described yesterday as difficult. I wanted to learn from the authoritative sources the future eventualities and developments as well as our Lebanese brothers' desire in relation to the rest of the Arab brothers, particularly in relation to the Tunisian authorities, so that I can convey this desire to my government.

Asked whether this move is a Tunisian initiative, the ambassador said: I do not want to use the term initiative. We have made no initiative, but are interested and ready to help the Lebanese leaders surmount the current difficulties.

Asked whether the Tunisian move will be within the context of the Saudi, Algerian and Kuwaiti moves or separate, the ambassador said: We respect any moves aimed at achieving peace, calm and stability in Lebanon.

Asked whether Tunis will make its move in its capacity as chairman of the Arab group in the UN Security Council, the ambassador replied: Tunis always moves from the premise the government draws up for its UN representative. The government defines its stand in light of its relations with and commitments to the Arab cause and within the Arab framework.

Asked whether Prime Minister al-Wazzan has conveyed a message to the Tunisian authorities, the ambassador answered: He conveyed a letter of thanks for their interest in the Lebanese situation and of hope that Tunisia will help Lebanon as the rest of the Arab brothers are doing.

PAST PREMIER SCORES U.S. POLICY AT MANILA MEETING

NC232034 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Apr 81

[Text] The Chamber of Deputies secretary general, Ihsan Abu Khalil, has received a telephone call from the Lebanese delegation to the International Parliamentary Conference currently being held in the Philippine capital of Manila. The telephone caller said that the Lebanese delegation has played an outstanding role in the conference's work through its contacts with the participating delegations to expound on the Lebanese situation and the painful conditions Lebanon is passing through.

The head of the delegation, former Prime Minister Amin al-Hafiz, made a statement at the conference yesterday. He warned that the continuation of clashes in Lebanon will definitely lead to an explosion in the area, an explosion that will threaten the interests of all parties.

Al-Hafiz called the attention of the big powers and the countries conflicting in the Middle East, which are trying to safeguard their strategic and oil interests and privileges, to the need to stop using Lebanon as an arena for their conflicts. He noted that failure to solve the Palestinian people's problem and allow them to obtain their legitimate rights and to deter Israel from continuing its aggressive policy against Lebanon would inflame the area, beginning from Lebanon in particular.

Al-Hafiz then commented on the erroneous policy that the new U.S. administration is said to favor, giving priority in the Middle East to the U.S. oil and strategic interests and to confronting Soviet expansionism instead of the Lebanese and Palestinian questions. He asked how the United States can guarantee its interests if the peoples of the area are spiteful, or rather, furious against it because of its unrestricted obedience to Israeli policy and Zionist influence.

Al-Hafiz said: The Lebanese people are looking forward to the day when the Palestinian problem is solved and the Palestinian people obtain their right to self-determination. This will contribute to resolving the Lebanese question.

Al-Hafiz added: The latest painful incidents in Lebanon have taught us unforgettable lessons. It has become clear beyond all doubts that Lebanon must continue its cooperation with its Arab neighbors. The Lebanese people have been moved by the emotions shown by friendly countries all over the world. However, the ideas and proposals that have been discussed cannot be practical and effective unless the legitimate Lebanese Government accepts them. It is natural that the government cannot accept any proposals unless the main parties in Lebanon agree with them.

It should be noted that in addition to Amin al-Hafiz, the Lebanese delegation includes deputies Fu'ad Naffa', Shafiq Badr and Ahmad (?Isbik).

AL-'ABDALLAH TEMPORARILY ASSUMES HADDAD'S POST

NC241037 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Text] The Voice of Hope radio in the south has reported that Maj Ahmad al-'Abdallah will assume power on behalf of Maj Sa'd Haddad, who has been in a hospital in Haifa for several days now for nervous exhaustion. It has been announced that Major Haddad will leave the hospital today for a period of convalescence lasting several days, before resuming his activities.

LEBANESE MINISTER PRAISES SYRIAN STEADFASTNESS

JN231259 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Apr 81

[Text] Beirut--Anwar as-Sabah, Lebanese minister of water and electricity resources, has praised Syria's stand against Zionist threats and U.S. pressure. He said he is confident Syria will continue to defend Arab issues and work for their victory. This came in a statement As-Sabah made to the Syrian news agency in Beirut today. The Lebanese minister called on the Arabs to stop being spectators and to support Syria's struggle and steadfastness against the Zionist enemy and U.S. imperialism. He added: On this occasion we must praise Syria's honorable stand on southern Lebanon. We continue to call for implementing what was agreed on at the Damascus summit to save southern Lebanon from the Israeli aggression.

DAMASCUS VIEWS TASKS OF PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

JN210555 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Apr 81

["Palestine broadcast": unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Palestine National Council has ended its 15th session in Damascus. The council issued resolutions and recommendations on issues related to our cause and struggle on the Arab, Palestinian and international levels. The council elected a new Executive Committee and Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] was elected chairman of this committee.

We say that the council proved that it was aware of the sensitive and serious stage of our struggle and cause. The tasks of the new committee are heavy and great. These tasks necessitate the translation of the unanimous Palestinian desire, as manifested in the PNC session, into reality. This desire is the speedy and earnest work to create Palestinian national unity. This is because as members and nonmembers of the PNC, we, as Palestinians, have shown our desire to realize Palestinian national unity. This desire is based on our awareness of the demands of our cause in order to protect our revolution and our path of armed struggle. We wish to take our basic and important place by the side of our brothers in the Arab Confrontation and Steadfastness Front, especially since we have evaluated the current stage and said that the issues have become very clear. Our enemies and friends have now appeared and we must lay out a strategy on all Arab and international levels.

The current state is sensitive and serious. We now see that all the hostile forces are mobilized to wipe us out or lead us to surrender, thus ending our cause in the interest of the Zionists and their U.S. masters. The intentions of the enemy camp have become clear. The battle of life and death has been imposed on us--a battle of existence and fate. The important thing is to pray for the members who have been trusted by our people, in order to enable them to shoulder their responsibility and be equal to the trust placed in them by our people.

ATH-THAWRAH LINKS PHALANGISTS TO 'ZIONIST PLOT'

JN211242 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 21 Apr 81

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Phalangist Gangs Are the Other Face of Zionist Aggression," ATH-THAWRAH comments: The continued Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon and the escalation of this aggression so that it coincides with the implementation of the general plot and the manipulation of the small agents, the implements of this plot, need no further proof.

All events have established that the Phalangist and Sham'unist gangs are manipulated by Israeli decisions to achieve the objectives of Israel's aggressive and expansionist policy in harmony with the imperialist-Zionist plot and its objectives in Lebanon and the Arab world.

The paper adds: Israel's action yesterday, in heavily bombing southern Lebanese areas and using its artillery and air force in shelling residential areas and civilians in Sidon, Tyre, An-Nabatiyah and other areas, is aimed at confirming Israel's obvious and declared support for the Phalangist and Sham'unist gangs and at giving a new lease on life to these small conspirators after they had failed to undermine Lebanon's security and thus achieve Israel's objectives.

The Lebanese citizen knows the true nature of these gangs, their connections and the plans they seek to implement. Thus, he has rejected and condemned their actions, thereby demonstrating his adherence to patriotism and his support for every sincere and honest effort to preserve the security, stability, Arabism and unity of Lebanon--people and territory.

This means that the plan to undermine Lebanon's security has backfired on Israel and its agents, who are now truly isolated in Lebanon and in the Arab world. Israel's savage and racist shelling of southern Lebanon shows that the general plot has failed, thanks to firm confrontation by Syria, the Lebanese nationist movement, the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese masses, which are concerned about their country's future, unity and Arabism.

This confrontation has also reversed the results of Alexander Haig's visit to the area. Syria not only refused to receive the American envoy but also exposed the true objectives of the visit and faced the parties to the plot who were manipulated at the beginning of the visit.

Thus, the Zionist aggression on southern Lebanon is an extension of Israel's aggressive and expansionist aggression and a revenge for the double failure suffered by the general plot in Lebanon, both on the level of the Haig visit and on the level of the complementary step to that visit, namely, the attempt by the Phalangist gangs to create a flareup and to spread their cancerous control to Zahlah and the Al-Biqa' Province to threaten Syria's national security, expedite the partition of Lebanon and make those Lebanese citizens who have opposed partition and condemned its advocates yield to despair.

ATH-THAWRAH says: The Lebanese citizen today hopes that several steps will be taken, but mainly that of achieving national accord and the establishing of a broad national front on clear bases, stressing Lebanon's Arabism and unity and considering it a part of the Arab front against Israel and its agents. The Lebanese citizen considers this step the starting point for achieving stability in Lebanon and tightening the siege around Israel's agents who, by their actions, have become the enemies of the Lebanese citizen by preventing him from gaining his freedom and his right to live in peace.

Since Israel's aggression against southern Lebanon has spread to Beirut and other areas through the Phalangist and Sham'unist gangs, the Lebanese citizen considers his battle against Zionist aggression also a battle against the Phalangist gangs, who are the other face of the Zionist aggression against Lebanon and the Lebanese people.

PLANNED CONFRONTATION WITH U.S. OVER ARMS DENIED

TA231925 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 23 Apr 81

[Text] Political sources in Jerusalem have denied reports that Israel is intending to initiate a confrontation with the U.S. administration over the arms deal with Saudi Arabia. Our political correspondent added that additional meetings between Israel's ambassador to Washington, Efrayim 'Evron, and members of the U.S. administration, including Secretary of State Alexander Haig, are expected in the next few days.

ALIGNMENT COLLECTS SIGNATURES TO CONVENE KNESSET

TA221643 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] The Alignment faction has collected the signatures of 30 Alignment Knesset members, the number necessary to convene the Knesset for a special recess session next week. The Alignment demands that the Knesset plenum discuss two issues: the relations between Jews and Arabs in the West Bank and Hebron on the one hand and on the other the exacerbation of relations with the U.S. administration and the danger posed to Israel's security by the U.S.-Saudi arms deal.

PERES SAYS U.S. ARMS MOVE CREATES 'GRAVE DANGER'

TA231516 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1425 GMT 23 Apr 81

[Text] Tel Aviv, 23 Apr--In reaction to the U.S. administration's announcement on readiness to supply offensive arms to Saudi Arabia Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres said today that the Reagan administration's decision to supply AWACS aircraft, F-15 fighters, sophisticated bombing equipment and a large number of various kinds of missiles constitutes a grave danger to the peace process and the security in the region.

Those who believe that it is possible to take advantage of elections in Israel in order to sell offensive equipment to Saudi Arabia are mistaken. Sharp criticism will always be leveled in Israel against such a decision.

Saudi Arabia was reserved about the Camp David accords and did not adopt any declared position in favor of the peace process. On the contrary, it leads the political and economic struggle against Israel. Such modern and quality equipment will only increase the arms race, heat up again the war instincts in the region and turn the Gulf of Al-'Aqabah, which was relatively calm, into a region in which such arms can plant mines dangerous to its future and the freedom of navigation and flight. The concern for security affairs should not be linked with elections affairs. After the hesitant and unclear reaction of our government to the issue of offensive equipment supplies to Saudi Arabia we must repeat our warning that massive arming of Saudi Arabia, which says no to peace, will put the Middle East in an intolerable situation and damage the continued peace efforts.

MA'ARIV EDITORIAL ON 'DANGER' IN AWACS SUPPLY

TA231142 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 23 Apr 81 p 5

[Editorial: "The Lie and the Precedent"]

[Text] The danger in the supply of AWACS aircraft to Saudi Arabia lies not only in the additional intelligence capability that Riyadh will gain from these sophisticated aircraft but also from the fact that a seal of righteousness will be issued to one of the most fanatic countries in the Arab world.

In order to justify the supply of such sophisticated weapons to Saudi Arabia it is necessary to persuade the entire world that Saudi Arabia is a moderate, wise and reliable pro-Western country which supports the efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East. Of course, this is a blatant lie. Nevertheless, the U.S. administration must diligently spread this lie in Congress and to U.S. public opinion to gain support for equipping a feudal and fanatic regime with the very best of Western technology. Whoever awards such a prize to a country which has persistently objected to the Camp David accords and has threatened to set out on a holy war against Israel creates a situation whereby it is worth the while of the Arab countries to adopt a rejectionist position and to object to peace between Israel and Egypt. If prizes are awarded for extremism and if certificates of moderation are given to fanatics, which of the rejectionist states will agree to contemplate moderating its position?

And this is not all. The United States is not the only country that wants to supply sophisticated weapons to Saudi Arabia. British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has recently completed a visit to Saudi Arabia and she also lauded the moderation of the desert kingdom and expressed her willingness to sell it arms. The West German chancellor will be leaving for Riyadh soon, carrying with him a catalogue of arms for sale.

How can the arms deals with Saudi Arabia be disqualified in these circumstances? If the United States issues it with a certificate of honesty and openly declares that Saudi Arabia is a country that has a constructive attitude toward the problems of peace and the defense of the region, why should the British and the Germans refrain from arming this honest-to-God friend of the Western world?

Therefore, not only will the truth be affected but a wide opening will also be created for extensive arms trade between Western manufacturers and the tycoons of the Arabian peninsula. This may be good for business but it is very dangerous for the existence of the State of Israel. All the friendly declarations of the U.S. administration will not change this basic fact.

IDF SPOKESMAN DENIES SOUTHERN LEBANON DEPLOYMENT

TA241208 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Text] The IDF spokesman has denied the report that a large IDF force this morning entered the Christian enclave and deployed along it. The spokesman said that such a report is a baseless rumor. He stressed that there was no unusual activity in southern Lebanon. The AFP report said 150 Israeli tanks deployed along the enclave and that inhabitants from nearby regions were fleeing northward. As we stated, this has been denied.

TZIPORI VIEWS SOUTHERN LEBANON 'ESCALATION'

TA230641 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 23 Apr 81

[Text] On Israel's position regarding recent events in the south [of Lebanon], Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori said:

[Begin recording] Let's just say the problem of Lebanon is serious by itself and from time to time there are ups and downs. I think that this escalation is related to the convention that has been in Damascus and all those militant terrorist groups or leaders wanted to show that they have some power to operate and to get some results. Maybe this brought it up and the intensity of their operations in the last couple, in the last days or weeks; I believe that it is going to cool down a little bit and they will start to reason with theirself [as heard] too, and because the consequences may be very hard on all the sides, for all the parties concerned, and we try, for the time being, we try to cool things. But we are prepared, if things will not be changed and very quickly, we will take measures to cool them down in some other way. [end recording]

LIBYA

TASS REPORTS AL-QADHDHAFI TO VISIT USSR 27-28 APR

LD232038 Moscow TASS in English 2003 GMT 23 Apr 81

[Text] Moscow, 24 Apr (TASS)--The leader of the Libyan revolution, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, will pay an official friendly visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee and the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet with a view to strengthening and developing further friendly relations between the Soviet Union and the Libyan Jamahiriyah. It has been agreed that the visit will take place on April 27-28.

MINUTES OF LIBYA-ROMANIA COMMISSION SIGNED

LD231412 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Apr 81

[Text] The brother secretary for oil and the deputy prime minister of Romania at noon today signed the minutes of the meetings of the seventh session of the Libyan Arab-Romanian Joint Commission, which was convened in Tripoli a few days ago. The minutes of this session include agreement on increasing the volume of bilateral cooperation in the scientific, economic and technical fields. They also contained a review and followup of the agreements existing between the two countries.

CSSR CONSTRUCTION MINISTER ARRIVES 23 APR

LD241048 Tripoli JANA in English 0845 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Text] Tripoli, 24 Apr (JANA)--The Czech minister of construction arrived in Tripoli last night on a visit to the Jamahiriyah for talks on bilateral cooperation. He affirmed to our correspondent the strong ties holding both friendly peoples in all sectors. The visit comes in terms of efforts to enhance and better the friendly relations between Czechoslovakia and the Jamahiriyah.

SWAPO LEADER SAM NUJOMA ARRIVES IN TRIPOLI

LD232022 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1715 GMT 23 Apr 81

[Text] SWAPO leader Sam Nujoma arrived in Tripoli on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. In a statement to a JANA reporter, Sam Nujoma lauded the unlimited support of the Libyan Arab people for the Namibian people who are struggling against the racists for the liberation of their land. He also lauded the gallant and unchanging stand of the Great 1 September Revolution toward championing the liberation movements in the world. The leader of SWAPO also praised the humanitarian aid of the Libyan Arab people to the people of Chad to enable them to achieve freedom and peace in their land. Nujoma denounced the base conspiracies of the imperialist powers against African peoples and their support for the racist regime in South Africa.

SUDAN

NUMAYRI, AS-SADAT TO MEET IN MAY IN KHARTOUM

JN221424 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1405 GMT 22 Apr 81

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Apr (SUNA)--His excellency the president of the republic, Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, and Egyptian President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat have agreed to meet in Khartoum in May during Sudan's celebration of the 12th anniversary of the May revolution.

MALI

UPPER VOLTAN, SYRIAN MINISTERS MEET PRESIDENT

AB240700 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 23 Apr 81

[Text] The secretary general of the Democratic Union of Malian People and president of the republic, Gen Moussa Traore, received successively in audience today Lt Col Felix Tiemtarboum, Upper Volta foreign minister, and Mr Muharram Tayyarah, the Syrian transport minister. The Upper Volta diplomat delivered a message from President Saye Zerbo to President Moussa Traore. Strengthening of fraternal relations between the Upper Voltan and Malian people and bilateral cooperation between our two countries were discussed at the audience. They also discussed the willingness of our two peoples to leave no stone unturned in their joint efforts to ensure the stability of the continent, in view of the recent outbursts of tension. The discussion was attended by Mr Aboubakar Diallo, our minister of public service, acting for the foreign minister. Reporter (Abdoulaye Sidibe) met Lt Col Tiemtarboum after the audience.

[Begin recording] [Tiemtarboum] We have just had the honor of being received by the head of state, President Moussa Traore, and we delivered to him a message from our head of state, Col Saye Zerbo. You are surely well informed of the events which have recently occurred in our country. On that occasion, a special delegation came here to inform President Traore. Our fields of cooperation and exchange of views being unlimited, the head of state has sent me to his brother and friend in order to ask him certian information and, why not say it, some advice, on the problems currently shaking the African Continent. One of the problems worrying us presently is the problem of Western Sahara. You know that at the last OAU summit conference in Freetown, 26 countries voted in favor of the SDAR's admission to the OAU. This matter has been slowed down, but there is no doubt that it will be on the agenda of the coming summit in Nairobi. Upper Volta wants to have a correct idea about all these problems. It is not that the problem is new to our country; we cannot contribute actively to finding a solution as can your country, which is a member of the OAU ad hoc committee on this matter.

[Question] Has the recent internal change in Upper Volta caused the authorities to re-examine or even to redraw the foreign policy of that country?

[Answer] Regardles of whether there is a reexamination or revision of policy, you know the past is gone. We are a people who want to live together and face our future. I can only tell you that the military council and its government have drawn up their foreign policy. First of all, we want Africa to be respected. Africans should find their own solutions to their problems. Nobody else can build this continent for us. It is our duty. Also, nobody can go to another country and make life happy for them there. It is the duty of those people to build their country. So, our priority is Africa. That is even the reason for our coming here today.

Second, the world being what it is, we will participate in any move to see that justice and peace prevail in this world we are all living in. We are all living on this planet and as long as justice does not prevail, there will be no development to which we are so committed and which is our preoccupation and that of the Third World.

[Question] Can you tell us the major subregional policy line of the military committee?

[Answer] Our policy line is that of solidarity with all our neighboring and friendly countries. We believe that every square meter of this continent, wherever it may be, is part of our existence. This is even more true when we talk about our neighbors and brothers. We believe that this solidarity must be the rule of the game in all our activities. We hope to play an active part in all the activities of the organizations set up by our states to help one another and together find solutions to our development problems. So, whenever it comes to solidarity and an exchange of views, Upper Volta will always be there. [end recording]

As for the Syrian minister of transport, who is on a working visit to our country, he delivered fraternal greetings from President Hafiz al-Asad. The discussion, also attended by Mr Djibril Diallo, our minister of transport and public works, centered on strengthening cooperation between Syria and Mali, particularly in the field of transportation. The head of state asked the Syrian minister to convey his fraternal greeting to President Hafiz al-Asad and the Syrian prime minister, as well as his sincere wishes for the happiness and prosperity or the Syrian people. Mr Muharram Tayyarah spoke to our correspondent (Abdoulaye Sidibe):

[Begin recording] [Word indistinct] President Traore's visit to Syria was very useful and fruitful and resulted in the visit I am now making to Bamako, within the framework of this cooperation. You know that our two Ministries of Transport have approached each other and today we have signed an air transport agreement which will enable our respective airlines to operate flights from Damascus to Bamako; this will start with a flight to [name indistinct].

[Question] Mr Minister, could you tell our listeners your country's position in the Lebanese crisis, which the Malian people have been following with great interest?

[Answer] I am very happy that you offered me this opportunity to speak on this problem, because I think that, people are misinformed here. The radio stations you listen to in this part of the world do not present a true picture of the Lebanese crisis. The problem in Lebanon is caused by external intervention forces which are trying to destabilize Lebanon and create an artificial situation. Now, you remember that the U.S. secretary of state, Mr Haig, paid a visit to the Middle East. The incidents in Lebanon are used only to camouflage the true purpose of Mr Haig's visit, because I can assure you that the purpose of Mr Haig's visit was to try to implement the Camp David agreement. You know, it was President as-Sadat alone who signed this agreement. He was condemned by other Arab nations. Now Mr Haig is trying to convince other Arab nations to join As-Sadat. And to camouflage this, they create tension in Lebanon. As for Syria, it has intervened in Lebanon at the request of the legal Lebanese Government. Syria placed soldiers and equipment at the disposal of the Lebanese Army. But, I must tell you that it was not an improvised action. It is the other Arab nations that are financing the Syrian forces in Lebanon. The head of the Syrian troops there is the president of Lebanon. So, the Syrian troops receive orders from the Lebanese President. This is to tell you that the Syrian troops are not in Lebanon by force or otherwise. They will leave as soon as the Lebanese president orders them to do so. We are there at the request of the government and people of Lebanon. [end recording]

On the possibility of sending UN forces to (?reinforce) the Syrian troops in Lebanon, the Syrian transport minister said that such a move would amount to trying to divide Lebanon for better control. He said that the Syrian and Lebanese Governments, as well as other Arab countries, have opposed this idea. Mr Tayyarah also condemned Israel's opinion that it was impossible for Christians and Muslims to live together. We have always lived together, as Muslims and Christians, in Arab countries like Syria, Jordan and Iraq, the minister of transport added.

SENEGAL

IRAQ'S RAMADAN ARRIVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT

AB241011 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 23 Apr 81

[Text] The vice premier of the Republic of Iraq, Mr Taha Yasin Ramadan, is paying an official visit to Senegal. His visit is within the context of strengthening cooperation between Senegal and Iraq. This cooperation is developing in the economic, cultural and political fields [words indistinct]. This afternoon he held private discussions with our prime minister, Mr Habib Thiam [words indistinct].

ANGOLA

PARTY DECLARATION ON FIGHT AGAINST LIBERALISM

LD231416 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 22 Apr 81 EA

[Declaration of the Political Bureau of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee issued in Luanda on 21 April]

[Text] 1. With the holding of the party's first extraordinary congress and with the creation of the People's Assembly and people's provincial assemblies, as our late comrade president, Dr Antonio Agostinho Neto, had desired, the building of socialism in the People's Republic of Angola [PRA] gained a vigorous impulse, which galvanized the working masses and created in the whole population an atmosphere of hope for practical measures enabling the speeding up of the revolutionary process.

2. The declaration of the year of discipline and control, the approval of the national plan and budget by the People's Assembly, the drafting of laws and the launching of firm steps aimed at carrying out the resolutions of the extraordinary congress brought satisfaction to the people, who are touched by the justness of the party's guidelines and are ready to activate the fight against liberalism, disorganization, irresponsibility and indiscipline, which reign in various sectors of national life.

3. Now, as Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos has said, we have started to be a party, not only theoretically but also practically. It is therefore necessary more than ever before to use all the accumulated experience and to constantly heighten the level of political and ideological consciousness of the party members and the people, thus stimulating the creative initiative of the masses for solving the economic and social problems facing the country.

4. Since independence, and particularly since the foundation of the MPLA-Labor Party, the gains obtained in all fields--such as the confiscations; nationalizations; taking over [words indistinct] of various sectors of agriculture, industry, trade, transport and fisheries--constitute in themselves a demonstration of the determination of our people to carry out the socialist program of the party. Nationalization in the education and heath fields constitutes a major gain, with a daily consolidation and improvement in these fields for the exclusive benefit of all working people.

5. Improvised and disorganized forms of work are constantly giving way to the forms of planning based on detailed study of problems. The hasty approval of development projects without careful consideration is giving way to the (?relationship) and priority of these projects, some of which have been subjected to profound analysis. All this is due to the continued improvement of work methods, the engagement of party members and the unswerving support of the whole people for the program of the party and guidelines of Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

6. However, the negative phenomena that hinder the solution of the people's problems make it difficult to apply the party's directives are still numerous. These negative phenomena, which, if they do not disappear, may seriously compromise the advance of the revolution, originate from the class struggle between the working class, the peasants and the revolutionary intellectuals, on one side, and the reactionary stratum of the national petite bourgeoisie allied to foreign bourgeoisie, on the other.

Individualism, black marketeering, indifference to the people's difficulties and bossism have produced dangerous manifestations of corruption, speculation, [words indistinct], ideological confusion, opportunism and political intrigue. The agents of such phenomena are directly or indirectly made use of by imperialism, which, together with armed aggression, seeks to strike at the supreme structures of the party and state, undermine their cohesion and create military, political, economic and social instability in the country.

To this end, imperialism does not hesitate to take advantage of various types of needs affecting the people's life and the nonimplementation of major decisions and directives by many bodies and officials in the state administration and to exploit the mistakes of some of our officials to convince people that the party leadership is responsible for all the existing errors, even those we inherited from colonialism, which, after 500 years of colonialism [words indistinct].

7. Our Marxist-Leninist option has always enraged international imperialism and our oft-reaffirmed support for the struggle of the people of Namibia, led by SWAPO, and the struggle of the oppressed people of South Africa, led by the ANC, further accentuates the aggression from the imperialist circles, whose offensive against our country and our party is part of its strategy of a generalized offensive against world revolutionary forces and against the socialist camp.

This generalized offensive is led by the most reactionary circles of U.S. imperialism presently in power, which show themselves to be presently engaged in carrying out a policy of state terrorism. The offensive is expressed against our country through the armed aggression by the racist regime of South Africa, which, in addition to its own army, uses mercenaries from Western countries, Angolan puppets and other African agents. It is also expressed through the infiltration of agents, through economic collaboration and diplomatic activity and through the use of news agencies and organs of propaganda. By these means it seeks to discredit and denigrate the PRA, its people and the Angolan revolution.

8. The threats to and provocations against our sovereignty and our dignity and the arrogant attitude of direct interference in the internal affairs of the PRA of the present U.S. administration have been met with indignation and contempt from the whole Angolan people; and indignation and strong support from the OAU, as well as from the UN African group and almost all its members and from other democratic and progressive forces of the world. Likewise, the continued armed aggression by racist South Africa and its groupings of mercenaries and puppets, which makes all peoples and peace- and freedom-loving forces indignant, have met with firm and heroic opposition from our glorious defense and security forces.

9. With the present deterioration in the international situation, the direct threats from imperialism against our country present a great danger that makes it necessary, as during the 1975 invasion, for our people to advance as one man in defense of the gains of the revolution and to be ready to confront any kind of aggression from any quarter. Here it is urgent and imperative to perfect our war machinery and wisely guide it in the defense of liberty, independence, revolution, peace and progress. It is urgent and imperative that every Angolan, wherever he is, should consider himself a soldier ready to take up arms to defend our borders, roads, railroads, factories, farms, wards, schools and hospitals and to be ready to carry out other patriotic and revolutionary tasks.

10. The defense of the country is the task of us all and not only of fighters at the front-line. Every one of us and every (?sector) of activity in the rearguard must be aware of the war situation imposed on us and must provide the formula of his own essential contribution even at the sacrifice of the available means. [sentence as heard] Under the leadership of the central organs of the party and government, the party provincial committees and provincial councils will mobilize efforts and the means at their disposal to face possible war situations and mobilize the population to be ready to face any enemy provocation.

In this context, it is necessary to heighten vigilance against acts of sabotage in strategic centers. Through the measures taken, all (?men), youth, women and children of our country will be aware of new and serious threats by imperialism against Angola and against southern Africa and, as in the past, will once again show to the world that the Angolan people cannot be intimidated and are ready to fight until the final victory.

As was rightly said by the late comrade president, Dr Antonio Agostinho Neto, every citizen is and must necessarily consider himself a soldier. The defense and security organs, in collaboration with the organs of the party and of the people's power, will coordinate their efforts to provide and organize, as of now, the broad participation of the masses in the defense sector so that the whole people may be ready to respond to any attempt at aggression.

11. The concern with the present defense requirements should not in any way disrupt the progress achieved since the holding of the extraordinary congress in the tasks of national construction, party restructuring at all levels, reorganization of the party apparatus, dynamization of mass organizations and the fight against all the vices and ills facing the administration. The strengthening of defense will, in fact, be much more effective the more the dynamism activates the strengthening of the apparatus of the party, government and mass organizations and the tasks of national reconstruction using the valuable instruments of the resolutions and guidelines of the extraordinary congress and (?the tasks of) the national plan.

12. The party base organizations [words indistinct] in the dynamization of the productive activity and in the fight against vices facing the administration (?in) some working sectors. However, they have not been benefiting from [words indistinct] of control, denunciation of mistakes and the dynamization of the whole productive process and have at times had their initiative cut out. It is the duty of the leading [word indistinct] provincial and central organs to carry out the task of strengthening organization, the functioning and power of the party cells and committees in places of work and their cooperation with the youth (?body), trade union commissions and the management in working places so that the fight against laxity and [words indistinct] the implementation of the guidelines of the extraordinary congress and the tasks drawn up in the national plan approved by the People's Assembly. It is also the task of the leading organs [words indistinct].

13. It has become imperative for us, with the support of the party's basic structures concerned, with the correct implementation of the rules of labor control at all levels, to urgently unleash a general offensive against carelessness and inefficiency so as to detect irregular situations of sabotage in enterprises and public services, in the private and mixed sectors of the economy. It is imperative for us to strengthen discipline and reestablish party and government control over all sectors in order to (?accelerate) the march of the revolution. Those who directly serve the people will be the target of this permanent concern, which will apply to all party members and leaders, youth members, trade unions and all workers and heads of enterprises and companies.

14. The offensive to be unleashed will have a markedly political character which will be of a corrective and educative nature and not just repressive. The action and organized collaboration of the internal order forces and people's vigilante groups, which will be established by the organs of the people's power with the backing of the defense forces, will constitute the basis of [words indistinct]. In urban centers they will temporarily fight irregular situations and disregard for laws so as to make disciplinary rules and priorities prevail. They will also ensure control of and vigilance over the criminal activities of certain delinquents, the movement of citizens between different locations in the country and the unemployed in urban centers.

15. Various party structures, the party's youth and mass organizations will all be engaged in the general offensive against carelessness and inefficiency by supervising and activating the implementation of the guidelines laid down by the higher organs. They will encourage workers to fulfill their set production targets and will energetically engage in the work of enlightenment and mobilization in towns and rural areas with regard to the objectives to be attained and evils to be fought. The need to make all workers and heads of sectors realize the importance of the national plan and the imperativeness of its implementation presupposes the rigorous application of the rules laid down under law 17/77, which provides for the allocation of tasks to relevant working sectors with regard to the fulfillment of set production targets.

16. Particular attention will have to be paid to the improvement of trade [words indistinct] the control of the production and distribution of industrial goods and foodstuffs from the production sectors to the markets. We shall have to vigorously fight hoarding and speculation by creating conditions to (?stabilize) prices and increase the number of distribution centers. Particular attention must also be paid to the network of private trade to make the activity of small traders and (?small-scale producers) complement state efforts while at the same time vigorously fighting illegal kandonga [graft], which is a new form of exploiting the people.

17. In the context of supporting the rural areas so as to strengthen the worker-peasant alliance, the party and government officials in municipalities and communes will supervise the activity of rural markets in order to increase the number of trade centers where peasants can sell farm produce and buy the essential industrial goods they need. At the same time, a system to determine the eligibility of farm workers for assistance will be set up, specifically to help workers at coffee, cotton and sugar enterprises and at enterprises producing high-demand consumer goods.

Correct directives will be issued by the party central organs to launch a detailed study of the situation in the field so as to establish clear guidelines for the operations of cooperatives, peasant associations and private farmers' schemes. This generalized offensive will be specifically directed toward fighting losses of property and financial chaos by means of keeping accounts to justify the use of everything, controlling prices and production costs, preventing imports not needed by our society and enforcing a rigorous policy of austerity. This will apply to all bodies and institutions.

18. A new dynamism will be applied to social tasks in the fields of defense, education and social assistance so as to fill the many gaps still existing. Particular attention will be paid to the strategy of training adequate and appropriate cadres for the economic sector. At the same time, the methods of qualifying and appointing them will have to be improved. A comprehensive campaign of education will be carried out with a view to making full use of technicians and particularly of cadres who have just been trained. That campaign will also be used to fight the swollen-headedness and know-it-all attitudes which characterize most of our cadres. Also, in the social field, ways of helping displaced people will be improved in order to create conditions to make life worth living and work worth doing within the limits of the scarce resources the nation has. At the same time, laws and regulations for the caring of veterans, particularly the treatment of the war wounded, will be scrupulously observed.

19. The Angolan Workers National Union, UNTA, and its unions in various activity sectors will perform an important role in mobilizing the masses for defense, production and the fight against carelessness and inefficiency. The trade union structures at the defense level will be strengthened and continually assisted for a more effective war against labor indiscipline and for more active participation of the councils and directorates of state enterprises in accordance with Law 17/77.

The internal organization of socialist emulation at enterprises and companies will also be perfected in order to ensure a constant increase in output and improved services. It is now imperative to apply the guidelines of the party's extraordinary congress calling for the sale of durable industrial goods to those who distinguish themselves most in fulfilling their tasks. In light of the success achieved by the emergency workers group [colunas para accoes de choque] in the field of construction, where workers have displayed an exemplary selfless spirit, we must encourage the creation of new emergency workers groups in other sectors of national reconstruction and even in the field of defense.

20. As it sets out the urgent tasks in the fields of defense and the general offensive against imperialism and inefficiency during this year of discipline and control and during the days preceding international workers day, the Political Bureau of the MPLA-Labor Party calls on all party members and the party youth, mass organizations and all working people to enthusiastically and dedicatedly implement all the guidelines aimed at ensuring the leading role of the party, which is the vanguard of the working people in the defense and consolidation of the victories already won, toward securing the continuity of the construction of the socialist fatherland.

Let us make 1 May the takeoff day for a great offensive against carelessness and inefficiency. Let us be firm in the defense of the threatened fatherland. Forward with the great offensive against carelessness and inefficiency. The struggle continues. For people's power, victory is certain.

[Signed] The Political Bureau of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee

EAST TIMOR FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES ON VISIT

AB231247 Luanda Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 23 Apr 81

[Text] The foreign minister of East Timor, Comrade Marius Alca Tidi, arrived yesterday in Angola on a working visit of several days. His visit falls within the framework of coming into direct contact with friendly countries. The East Timor foreign affairs minister said on arrival that during his stay in Angola he will hold discussions with officials of the Foreign Relations Department of the government and the party on the situation on his country as well as on current international issues.

NAMIBIA

SWAPO COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY

LD231342 Algiers APS in English 1133 GMT 23 Apr 81

[Text] Luanda, 23 Apr, (APS)--The South-West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) has reaffirmed, in a communique issued in Luanda, on the occasion of the 21st anniversary of its foundation (April 19th 1960), its determination to carry on the armed struggle till the total liberation of the Namibian territory illegally occupied by the racist regime of Pretoria. The SWAPO also denounces the manoeuvres of Pretoria aiming at perpetuating the colonization of Namibia and rejects the Reagan administration's plans which aim at modifying the 435 Resolution of the United Nations Security Council.

"The SWAPO," the communique states, "condemns the South African armed aggression against the populations of the People's Republic of Angola and other front line countries".

The communique affirms that "the South African racists' intransigence is supported by the Western countries--of the "contact group"--who, in fact, support militarily and economically the South African racist regime". The SWAPO, concludes the communique, is satisfied with the efforts of the U.N. secretary-general, of the OAU and of the non-aligned ministerial conference, in view of finding a negotiable solution to the Namibian problem. The SWAPO urges the Security Council to impose sanctions against the Pretoria racist regime.